(SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks on definition of sick SSI units, and classification of advances into various categories which help in the identification of sick units.

(b) to (d) As per the latest data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of sick small scale industries as at the end of March, 2000 were 3,04,235 with outstanding Bank loans of Rs. 4608.43 crores. Out of these 14,373 SSI units were identified as potentially viable.

Growth rate of SSI

†4553. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present growth rate of the SSI in the country according to the latest position, State-wise;

(b) whether the present growth rate is very low as compared to the growth rate achieved during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to improve the growth rate in small scale industry sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The annual growth rate of production of the SSI sector in the country has been estimated (provisional) at 8.90% for the year 2000-2001. The State-wise estimates are not available.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The estimated annual growth rates of production during last three years *i.e.* 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are 8.43%, 7.70% and 8.16% respectively.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) In order to strengthen the SSI sector and to enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government has announced a Comprehensive Policy Package on 30.8.2000. The Policy package includes enhanced fiscal, credit and marketing support, technology upgradation and quality improvement.

Industrial activities under PMRY

4554. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the ratio of the industrial activities for which loans are to be given under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana;

(b) whether it is a fact that the applications received and considered for industrial activities are very less; and

(c) what steps are being taken to promote more industrial activities under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As per the reports received from the States/UTs, out of the total sanctions under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), the share of the loans for industrial activities is 20.6 per cent. No ratio of loans for industrial activities has been specified in the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY).

(c) A number of steps have been taken to improve this share including enhancement in the maximum project cost for the industrial activities; longer duration of training and release of training funds at higher rate (both for stipend and training expenses) for the industrial activities *vis-a-vis* other activities under the PMRY.